

# Shoolier Bash

Dedicated to the Beneficial Bewilderment of Mankind

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Fort Wayne, Ind.

Sept. 1984

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## *Everything Comes To Him Who Waits*

Like Old Age, Gray Hair  
and Type From India !

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This essay on the erratic care and feeding of a printing type collection begins over a year ago when it was brought to my attention that there was an operating type foundry located in India which was casting type such as was popular in the United States about 1880. A letter was sent off, via air mail, in an attempt to find out if, in fact, this could be true. Here was a golden opportunity to acquire some of those ornamented faces which today are almost impossible to find.

My letter explained my interest in "antique" type faces and if indeed they had any faces of this style would they be kind enough to furnish me with a specimen listing of these faces. Since this inquiry was made blindly, I didn't really expect much in way of an answer. To show my sincerity and in a fit of generosity, I enclosed a \$5.00 bill.

Almost a month later, when I had begun to expect the worst, a cloth wrapped and sewed package arrived. There it was! The complete specimen book of the Gujarati Type Foundry. All the way from Bombay, India . . . complete down to a registration page inscribed with my name and a number. I was the proud possessor of specimen book No. 50 from an edition of 384 which was printed about 1920. The exuberance subsided somewhat when I got around to adding up the postage on this  $3\frac{1}{4}$  pound book. Just a few cents under \$20.00.

In a follow-up letter Mr. Gopalkrishna Modi, a partner in the Foundry, explained that he had the book sent air mail since sea mail could take up to four months, depending on where a boat

was bound for in departing Bombay.

He further assured me that they could cast any item in the book. Imagine, being able to pick and choose from all the fabulous old time faces and combination borders. A kid in a candy store never had it so good. The letter priced type and sized fonts, which proved to be very generous by our fonting standards . . . it also said I owed them \$20US for postage. I have a sneaky suspicion my \$5 bought lunch for some clerk in the mail room.

Six fonts were selected, a pro-forma invoice obtained and I set off for the bank to procure a draft. They don't accept cash or postal money orders; further, the draft *must* be payable in Bombay. The gal at the bank assured me that their draft on a Calcutta bank would be honored in Bombay. Not so!! It took over a year to get the paper work squared away between the Calcutta bank and the Foundry. Meantime I waited for my order of type. Final payment was made through American Express in Bombay in less than a week, and for a smaller transfer fee. So, if you ever plunge for Indian type, follow the payment instructions to the letter.

These are the faces from GTF, Bombay. The names used are theirs.

30, 36 pt. Ornamental Shaded

Available  
(In 30, 36, 48)

30 ORNAMENTAL SHA  
36 NOW IS THE M

18 pt. Beauty

(In 12, 18, 24)



18 pt. Star

(In 18, 24, 36)

18 OLD AMERICAN FACE

18 pt. Punarvasu

(pied by Customs inspectors)

(In 18, 24)

18 P. PUNARVASU

24 pt. Calypso

(In 24 only)

24 CALYPSO TYP